'Ah, Wilderness' Opens Tuesday

Famous Eugene O'Neill play "Ah, Wilderness" will be presented by Victoria College Players Club Feb. 24 to 28. Among players in the club's annual presentation are Colin Ross, left, as Nat Miller, Karl Wylie as Sid Davis and Ed Pomeroy as the bartender, photographed at rehearsal.

* * *

What's Next

Today, tomorrow—Victoria Symphony Orchestra, pianist Allan Blumenthal, conductor Clifford Evens, Royal Theatre, 3 p.m. (today) and 8.30 p.m. (tomorrow).

Tuesday—Victoria College Players open "Ah, Wilderness," College Auditorium, 8.15 p.m.

Friday—Victoria Jazz Society presents "Polite Jazz" at the Club Sirocco, featuring clarinetist John Hartman, 9 p.m.

March 2—Pianist Amparo Iturbi, Royal Theatre, 8.30 p.m.

March 6, 7—Peninsula Players present "High Ground," Sidney Elementary School, 8.15 p.m.

March 7—University of B.C. Choir, Memorial Hall, 912 Vancouver Street, 8.15 p.m.

March 9-14—Greater Victoria schools drama festival, afternoons and evenings.

March 11—Haydn's "Creation," augmented choir and soloists, Metropolitan United Church, 8.15 p.m.

March 14-21—Victoria Theatre Guild presents "Separate Tables," Langham Court Theatre, 8.15 p.m.

March 15-16—Victoria Symphony Orchestra, guest conductor Sir Ernest MacMillan, Royal Theatre.

March 17—Jose Greco and company, Royal Theatre, 8.30 p.m.

March 18—Talented students' recital, Musical Art Society, Holyrood House, 8.30 p.m.

Slow Indian Came Through

Success at Last For Nelson Eddy

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — He did it! He finally did it!

Nelson Eddy has sold 1,000,000 copies of a single recording.

It took him 23 years.

Eddy is bursting with joy following announcement that his version of "Indian Love Call," waxed in 1936, squeaked into "the 1,000,000 sales market last week, qualifying him for a golden record award.

Modestly, the baritone credits his oldtime partner, Jeanette MacDonald—who warbled a duet with him on the platter—for the success of the redskin mating number.

"Twenty-three years is a long time to wait when you think of some of these rock 'n' roll singers who sell 1,000,000 copies in 23 days. Maybe we were singing about a slow Indian."

Success hasn't gone to Nelson's head. He holds no high hopes that his "Shortnin' Bread" record will break the mark.

"It's been banned on radio and television at the request of the NAACP," he said. "I still sing it in my night club act, but I've changed the words so it won't offend anyone."

Eddy said most of his time these days is spent in clubs, singing and kidding himself.

"I like to see these young singers become famous overnight and make a lot of money," he laughed. "If it weren't for them, we'd all be sitting around singing 'Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life' — and I wouldn't want that to happen to anybody.

"Don't forget, the schottische was pretty hot stuff in its day. Something new will come along to replace rock 'n' roll.

"Me? I'll still be singing 'Shortin' Bread'."

Earlier Start Set In Music Schooling

Start of a program of basic instrumental instruction to students in elementary schools of North Saanich has been announced by S. N. Magee, director of the North Saanich High School band. Purpose of the plan is to have a steady flow of young musicians coming to the high school.

Mr. Magee, who is a teacher at Sidney Elementary school, is assisted by Mrs. Jean Eagles of the high school staff, who gives instruction to an intermediate group of junior high school students.

On April 18, the band will sponsor the "Bandwagon," a musical program, at SANSCHA hall, similar to those held several years ago when Mr. Magee was director of the now defunct Sidney Boys' Band.

Saanich school district No. 63 recently contributed $200 for the purchase of additional instruments and music.

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1. Sunday—Hans Moller (last day)
2. Etchings by Arnold Belkin

Tuesday Through Saturday
1. Recent Paintings by Herbert Siebner
2. New Acquisitions
3. Etchings by Arnold Belkin

PROGRAMS
Monday, 8 p.m.—Opening of Herbert Siebner Exhibition—Members Preview. All members welcome.
Thursday, 8 p.m. Recorded Music Society Society and Gallery members free Guests 40c.
Friday, 12.30 p.m. Recorded Concert Free to visitors in the gallery.
9th Annual Jury Exhibition Opens May 4. Entry forms available after March 12

GALLERY HOURS
Closed Mondays
Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday, 2 to 5 p.m.
Also Friday evening, 7.30-9.30
Admission 25c
Free on Sundays
Single membership $7.50 per annum

The Entertainment Parade

New Stage for O'Neill

Drama comes to the forefront again this week with the opening on Tuesday of "Ah, Wilderness" by the Victoria College Players' Club.

Author Eugene O'Neill had established his reputation by 1933 when "Ah, Wilderness" first appeared, but even without the impact of novelty and literary audacity, the play remains important as a fine example of the work of one of America's greatest playwrights.

Directed by Flora Nicholson, it runs Tuesday through Saturday on the new, extended stage in the College auditorium; not, as in the last few years, arena-style in the Union Room.

There is a large cast which includes John Hart in the central part of "Richard Miller," Barbara Dickout, Maureen Gee, Margaret Johnston, Irene Webb, Dianne Watkin, Linda Johns, Elizabeth Roper, Michael Deane, Colin Ross, Bob Taylor, Karl Wylie, Peter Marinker, Ed Pomeroy and Milt Calder.

There is also a large and efficient backstage crew, among them being Carole Slater, design; Dianne Hamlet, makeup, and Jill Robertson, properties.

* * *

"Polite Jazz" reappears in Victoria on Friday at the Club Sirocco. Presented by the Victoria Jazz Society, the festivities start at 9.00 p.m. with Bunk McEwen's sextet, featuring clarinettist John Hartman.

* * *

Deadline for entries in the Victoria music festival is only eight days away. To date, they have not been coming in very fast and they should be sent to Western Music at 758 Fort Street. There were 869 entries last year, of which 747 were in the school age classes.

A new vocal scholarship is announced by the Vancouver Women's Musical Club.

Full particulars are available from Mrs. W. D. Patton, 1637 Cedar Crescent, Vancouver, but here are a few.

Applicants must be B.C. residents from 16 to 26 years old. They must prepare six numbers of which one is to be an operatic aria in the original language, one lieder class and at least one in English. Sight reading and ear tests will also be given.

* * *

Auditions for music students wishing to appear at the annual talented students' recital of the Musical Art Society take place at Newstead Hall on March 7.

Performers who contribute to the recital, set for March 18 at Holyrood House, will be members of the junior or intermediate groups of the society.

The secretary, to whom enquiries may be addressed, is Miss Florence Miller, 1436 Elford Street, EV 2-7516.

* * *

A concert party of the Musical Art Society will entertain at the Gorge Road Hospital Friday. This will include the Madgiral singers, pianist George Essihos, flautist John Whitehead, accompanist Florence Miller and vocal soloists.

By way of a hint at things to come, the month of March promises to be a busy one in the entertainment world here.

"There are three Famous Artists presentations, Amparo Iturbi, Jose Greco and Emlyn Williams. Sir Ernest MacMillan conducts the Victoria Symphony. There are two major play productions and the week-long schools drama festival. In addition, there is the visit of the UBC Choir, the students' recital and the Haydn oratorio.

DR. ALLAN BLUMENTHAL
. . . "music must have melodic line"

* * *

It's Music for Sure

Doctor-Pianist Certain Now

Not everyone has the opportunity to choose between two rewarding careers. For one thing, few people are qualified to follow more than one career.

Dr. Allan Blumenthal, soloist this weekend with the Victoria Symphony Orchestra, is an exception.

A graduate doctor of medicine, he has turned back to what was his first and, he is now sure, his greatest interest—music.

Qualification as a doctor, or as a pianist of concert-stage ability, calls in either case for years of hard work. How did he do it?

"It wasn't easy," said Dr. Blumenthal with a smile, "especially when I was studying medicine. My studies cut rather heavily into my work on the piano."

The doctor-pianist (or perhaps he'd prefer it the other way around) is a native of Toronto, and started studying piano at the age of five years.

* * *

He studied at the Toronto Conservatory of Music and the Juilliard Foundation in New York, and his medical education was at the University of Toronto. After graduation, he was a general practitioner in Toronto for some years.

Acquisition of his medical degree gave him more time for the piano. With his return to piano playing came a growing conviction that for him, music must come first.

This is his first concert year and, he says, it has been a gratifying busy one between appearances on radio and in several Canadian cities.

What is his musical preference?

"Classical music, of course—but what I call the 'romantic classics'—the works of Chopin, Liszt and similar composers. For me, music must have a melodic line, and I find myself in occasional arguments with those who prefer Bach and Brahms, or the modern school."

* * *

In the eighth pair of symphony concerts, at the Royal Theatre this afternoon and tomorrow evening, he will play Chopin's second piano concerto.

Dr. Blumenthal made his orchestral debut in 1948 with the University of Toronto symphony orchestra, whose conductor was Hans Gruber.

This season he has appeared with such notable organizations as the CBC Symphony and the Vancouver Chamber Orchestra.

There are four other attractive items on the program of concertmaster Clifford Evens, guest conductor. One, in particular, is Prokofieff's famous "Peter and the Wolf", to be narrated by Gordon Petter. In addition, there will be the overture to Smetana's "The Bartered", orchestral suite from "Der Rosenkavalier" of Strauss and the prelude to Moussorgski's "Khovantchina."

'Jewel of Loodipoor'

City Music Show Coming in April

The Victoria Light Opera Company has announced production of "The Jewel of Loodipoor," by Victoria's Mme. Winnifred Lugrin Fahey, April 2 and 3 at Oak Bay Junior High School.

The production is directed by Alan Robertson and the cast includes Peggy Walton Packard, Leona Hanley, Mimi Robertson, Ian Wiliox and Bill Fahey.

Rehearsals are at the Elks Hall on Cormorant Street at 8 p.m. Fridays. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

"The Jewel of Loodipoor" is sponsored by the Benevolent Order of Elks, Victoria Lodge, with proceeds devoted to the Purple Cloth Fund.

New RCMP Pilot Due at Airport

Staff Sergeant Ben Ruhl will arrive within the next few days to take over the duties of pilot of the Patricia Bay Airport-based RCMP Grumman Goose.

The new pilot, who has been transferred from Edmonton, replaces Sub-Inspector J. H. Reid, recently transferred to Ottawa.

Movie Camera Lure In Ball Field Drive

Langford recreation commission and advisory council will sell tickets on a complete home movie outfit to raise funds for putting grass on the local Centennial Park ballfield.

Draw will be held at a bingo night in the Legion Hall, Dunforth Avenue, March 24 at 8 p.m.

No Takers For Years

LAGUNA BEACH, Cal. (NANA) — Jack Norworth, 80, who wrote "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," didn't see one until 34 years later. It's puzzled thousands. But not Norworth.

"So what?" he says. "Harry Williams wrote 'In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree,' and I am sure he never saw a blade of grass. He spent all his life in Tin Pan Alley."

ANGELA KREMSNER
. . . in "Cavalleria"

* * *

Production Next Month

Popular Operas Set in Vancouver

The Opera Players of British Columbia, accompanied by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, will present the opera "Cavalleria Rusticana" and the second act of "Prince Igor" at the International Cinema in Vancouver March 9 to 14.

Alex Ustimovich will direct the popular operas, Annette Coates will conduct and former Victorian Gail McCance, of the Theatre Under the Stars, will direct the sets and lighting.

In "Cavalleria Rusticana," the lead sopranos are Angela Kremsner tnd Lila McCormick and the lead tenors are Joseph Barint and Richard Ostendorff.

Other principals are Robert McLellan, Stan Minato, Katharine Frederick, Helga Wolfram, Miriam Norton and Lorraine Bridgeham.

The opera "Prince Igor" will be sung by Robert McLellan, Bill Evans, Alex Ustimovich, Ken Brown, Milla Pashkovski, Katharine Frederick and Carol Fontaine. The leading ballet soloists are Gerald Wright, Anita Ludovici, Donna Cranfield and Rosemary Webber.

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